

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02045 110944Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
-----123802 110947Z /15

P R 101705Z 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7745
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 2045

USDOC FOR BEWT/TPD (ROBB)

VIENNA FOR VONTILLIUS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, UR
SUBJECT: PROPOSED S/ME ON ARCTIC OIL

REF: (A) USDOC 2362, (B) MOSCOW 1076

1. EMBASSY RESPONDED TO USDOC 348 WITH REFTEL (B)
TRANSMITTED JANUARY 24.

2. DURING CALL AT MINISTRY OF OIL FEBRUARY 7, COMOFF
ASKED CHIEF OF MINISTRY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT,
P.A. ARUSHANOV, FOR HIS VIEWS ON ADVISABILITY OF OUR
TAKING ARCTIC OIL AND GAS EQUIPMENT S/ME TO BAKU IN
CONJUNCTION WITH "NEFTA-GAZ '78". ARUSHANOV WAS OF
VIEW THAT TO BRING FIRMS AND EQUIPMENT FOCUSING ON
ARCTIC CONDITIONS TO BAKU EVENT WOULD BE A MISTAKE,
SINCE VERY FEW OF MINISTRY'S ARCTIC SPECIALISTS WOULD
ATTEND "NEFTA-GAZ '78". ARUSHANOV THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT
AN S/ME ON ARCTIC OIL AND GAS EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
WOULD BE VERY USEFUL AND OF GREAT INTEREST TO MINOIL.
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HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED, SHOULD WE DECIDE TO HOLD S/ME
ON THIS TOPIC, THAT WE NOT CHANGE ITS PROPOSED VENUE
(I.E., USCO). HE URGED THAT WE MESH ITS TIMING WITH
"NEFTA'GAS '78" SO THAT MINISTRY SPECIALISTS FROM FAR
NORTH COULD EITHER BE BROUGHT IN TO MOSCOW OR ROUTED
THROUGH MOSCOW ON THEIR WAY TO OR FROM BAKU EVENT.

ARUSHANOV SAID THAT SOVIET PETROLEUM TECHNICIANS WHO WOULD ATTEND BAKU EVENT WOULD BE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN TELEMECHANIZATION OF OFF-SHORE RIGS AND OIL WELLS. (FYI: BEWT/TDAD OFFICER STEIN ACCOMPANIED COMOFF ON THIS VISIT. END FYI)

3. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO U.S. OIL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS (LYNES INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND BAKER TRADING), WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THERE IS HIGH INTEREST AMONG U.S. OIL AND GAS FIRMS TO TAKE PART IN BOTH "NEFTA-GAZ '78" AND IN OUR PROPOSED S/ME IN USCO. THESE BUSINESSMEN, TOO, URGED THAT WE MAINTAIN SEPARATE CHARACTER OF S/ME ON ARCTIC EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY BY HOLDING IT IN MOSCOW EITHER WEEK BEFORE OR WEEK AFTER "NEFTA-GAZ '78."

4. WE SUBMIT ABOVE INFORMATION FOR USDOC/BEWT'S CONSIDERATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH REFTTEL (B) BEFORE FINAL DECISION IS REACHED ON TIMELINESS OF MERGING PROPOSED S/ME WITH OFFICIAL USG PARTICIPATION AT NEFTA-GAZ '78 IN BAKU. MATLOCK

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, PETROLEUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW02045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780064-0174
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802113/aaaafvk.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 7c5b9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 1076
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3461124
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970822
Subject: PROPOSED S/ME ON ARCTIC OIL
TAGS: BEXP, ENRG, UR
To: COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c5b9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014